

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 EB-11 /155 W

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R 221917Z JAN 74

FM*AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5979

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

COGARD ONSOD

NAVELEC SYSCOM FOR PME-119

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0184

E.O. 11652:* GDS

TAGS: ETRN; MARR; TD

SUBJECT: OMEGA STATION

REF: POS 0136 AND 0126

1. MEDIA COVERAGE OF CHARGES RE OMEGA STATION HAS LARGELY DIED DOWN. TV FILM FEATURING EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR OF STATION (ARRANGED THROUGH EMBASSY) ALSO CONTAINED INTERVIEW WITH PROF. KENNY, SOURCE OF ORIGINAL CHARGES, WHO GAVE UNCONVINCING PERFORMANCE WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. PROGRAM SUPPORTED EMBASSY'S PUBLIC STATEMENT. THE LEFTIST WEEKLY TAPIA REHASHED KENNY'S STATEMENTS AND ERRORS UNDER HEADLINE "TRINIDAD A TARGET FOR NUCLEAR ATTACK?" ANC CONCLUDED: "OMEGA MUST GO*" THE WEEKLY CATHOLIC NEWS AND SUNDAY REVIEW GAVE SOME CREDENCE TO THE KENNY CHARGES IN AN ARTICLE DESCRIBING HOW EASILY A FANATIC COULD CONSTRUCT AND EXPLODE AN ATOMIC BOMB. EXPRESS CARRIED STATEMENT HELPFUL TO US BY CAPTAIN BLOOM, HEAD OF THE COAST GUARD.

2. IN A LETTER TODAY TO THE GUARDIAN, KENNY STILL INSISTED ON MISREPRESENTING PART OF EMBASSY STATEMENT BUT AGREED THAT OMEGA IS OPEN TO USE BY ALL SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT HAVING THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, HE TOOK A NEW AND PERHAPS MORE EFFECTIVE
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TACK IN CRITICIZING USE BY A FOREIGN INSTALLATION OF ACREAGE SUITED

TO THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHAGUARAMAS.

3. CHAGUARAMAS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HEAD O'PALLORAN TOLD ME SATURDAY THAT KENNY'S CHARGES WERE A "PUT UP JOB" PERPETRATED BY STEPHEN NORMAN, CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION EXAMINING PLAN FOR CHAGUARAMAS DEVELOPMENT, WHO WAS INCENSED AT BEING TURNED DOWN IN HIS BID TO ACQUIRE FIVE ACRES OF CHAGUARAMAS LAND FOR HIMSELF.

4. COMMENT: GOTT HAS NOT BEEN UNHAPPY WITH GENERAL PUBLIC MISCONCEPTION THAT ALL CHAGUARAMAS NOW UNDER T&T CONTROL, ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER HAS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OMEGA CONTINUES UNDER DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT. UNLESS OPPOSITION ELEMENTS CAN REVIVE FLAGGING CHARGES, WE MAY BE THROUGH THIS ONE RELATIVELY UNSCATHED. WHILE WE STILL REQUEST AUTHORITY TO FILL GOTT IN ON OUR PLANS FOR LIBERIA ON AN INFORMATIONAL BASIS, WE DO NOT RPT NOT RECOMMEND TOUCHING ON SUBJECT OF DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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